



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

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GROVES BANK ROBBER SENTENCED

(Beaumont, TX) A 27-year-old Groves man has been sentenced to 38 months in federal prison for robbing a Port Arthur bank this past January. **MARIO RUBEN COLUNGA** was sentenced today by United States District Judge Ron Clark.

According to information presented in court, on January 14, 2005, Colunga was arrested outside a shopping center just a few blocks from the Bank ONE Bank shortly after it had been robbed. Colunga was in possession of approximately \$8,600 in bank funds at the time of his arrest. Bank employees were able to identify Colunga as the man who had earlier passed a threatening note to a teller at the bank demanding money. Colunga pleaded guilty to the charges in March.

United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig was pleased with today's sentence, "Bank robbery is a serious crime, one that my office will always vigorously prosecute. I hope and trust that the Bank ONE employees will receive some closure and satisfaction from today's sentencing."

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Port Arthur Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Batte prosecuted the case.

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